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Title: Need to provide loans at concessional rate of interest for modernization and development of sugar mills in Bihar.

SHRI KIRTI AZAD (DARBHANGA): Sugar Industry had prospered in Bihar in the past. Besides providing employment to the majority of the population in the State, it facilitated spread of transport and communication, and assisted in developing the rural areas by mobilizing the resources in the best possible manner. Although, endowed with suitable agro-climatic conditions, yet, Bihar has not been able to fully exploit its potential for emerging as a front ranking sugar producing State in the country. Today, the sugarcane farmers as well as sugar industry are struggling for survival. Out of the 28 sugar mills in Bihar only 9 are operational now.

Therefore, keeping in view the importance of Sugar industry in the State, the Central Government should provide concessional loans for modernization and development of sugar mills. There is also an urgent need to provide financial relief to sugarcane farmers of Bihar who do not find buyers for their produce as most of the sugar mills processing sugarcane from the farmers have been forced to shut down.